

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 A-01 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 IO-13

SSM-03 OPR-02 CU-02 /096 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2010

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 124

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION OCTOBER 9

REF: BEIRUT 7921 (DTG 081350Z OCT 76)

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1. SUMMARY. HASSAN SABRI AL-KHULI ANNOUNCES

SYRIAN/LEBANESE/PLO/ARAB LEAGUE MEETING OCT 9 IN SHTAURA. INTENSE CLASHES BETWEEN LAA AND CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN WITH ISRAELI SUPPORT REPORTED FROM SOUTH NEAR MARJAYUN. ISRAELI SHIPS PATROOLLING WITHIN LEBANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. GROUND SITUATION STABLE WITH CONTINUED SPORADIC SHELLING. PFLP-GC EXPLAINS AHMED JIBRIL FALL FROM POWER AS DUE "DEVIATIONISM," MEANING UNACCEPTABLE PRO-SYRIANISM. DRUZE OF METN ISSUE PUBLIC LIST OF GRIEVANCES IN APPEAL TO WORLD OPINION. RIGHTISTS POSTPONE SCHOOL OPENINGS AND AUB/IC DOES LIKEWISE. END SUMMARY.

2. AL-KHULI ANNOUNCES QUADRIPARTITE MEETING BUT PESSIMISM PREVAILS. ARAB LEAGUE ENVOY HASSAN SABRI AL-KHULI ANNOUNCES SYRIAN/LEBANESE/PLO/AL MEETING TO BE HELD IN SHTAURA OCT 9 "TO STUDY A HALT TO FIGHTING AND APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS." MOVE APPEARS LAST DITCH ATTEMPT AT COMPROMISE AND EXPECTATIONS ARE LOW. LEBANESE DELEGATION INCLUDES SARKIS REPRESENTATIVES COL. MUSA KANAAN, COL. AHMAD AL-HAJJ AND COL. MICHEL NASSIF. PALESTINIANS REPRESENTED BY HANI AL-HASSAN, SAAD SAYEL AND ABU MAHER. SYRIAN REPS NOT ANNOUNCED. KANAAN AND AL-HAJJ MET OCT 8 WITH SAYED AND AL-HASSAN. AN-NAHAR SAYS PALESTINIANS HAVE AGREED TO WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED ELEMENTS OF ALL GROUPS FROM ALL FRONTS, REINFORCEMENT OF ARAB LEAGUE PEACE FORCES AND CONSIDERATION OF SYRIAN ARMY IN LEBANON AS A PROTECTION GUARANTEE. AL-KHULI STATES AL FORCES WILL BE REINFORCED SOON. AL-ANWAR SAYS PREPARATIONS FOR ATTACK ON SIDON CONTINUE AS RESULT REPORTS FROM SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN SOURCES THAT IRAQI TROOPS EN ROUTE TO SIDON. KATAEB REP KARIM PAKRIDUNI MET SARKIS OCT 8, LATER TELLING PRESS, "SYRIA FROM NOW ON FAVORS A RAPID SOLUTION WHICH IS BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY." CRITICISM OF SARKIS NEUTRALITY CONTINUES WITH MOVEMENT OF THE PIONEERS OF REFORM ASKING ABOUT "MOTIVES OF SARKIS SILENCE" AND CALLING ON PRESIDENT TO "INFORM THE CITIZENS OF HIS POLITICAL ATTITUDE ON RECENT EVENTS."

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3. SOUTH HEATS UP. CLASHES BETWEEN LAA AND RIGHTIST MILITIAMEN, FIRST REPORTED OCT 7, CONTINUING AT QULAY'A IN SOUTH. WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE INDICATES CLASHES, THE FIRST OF THIS MAGNITUDE IN SOUTH, WERE PROVOKED BY RIGHTISTS. CHRISTIAN OR ISRAELI ELEMENTS AT QULAY'A SHELLED LAA BARRACKS AT MARJAYUN AND NABATIYAH, AND RADIO AMCHIT CLAIMS NABATIYAH BARRACKS DESTROYED (HIGHLY DOUBTFUL) AND MANY

PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS KILLED. ACTION IN AREA INCLUDES ISRAELI RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER AREA AND, ACCORDING TO VOICE OF LEBANON, ISRAELI BARRICADES OUTSIDE QULAY'A, RMAYSH AND ALMA, WHERE LEBANESE VILLAGERS MUST OBTAIN ENTRY AND EXIT PERMITS. VOICE OF PALESTININE SAYS ISRAELI BARRICADES REINFORCED BY TANKS. U.S. JOURNALISTS REPORTED MISSING OCT 7 IN JAZZIN AREA NOW BACK IN BEIRUT.

4. ISRAELI SHIPS MOVE CLOSER IN. ISRAELI GUNBOATS NOW PATROLLING INSIDE LEBANON COASTAL WATERS, LEADING TO FREQUENT SIGHTINGS, INCLUDING FROM CHANCERY. ISRAELI VESSEL, APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING STOP TANKERS ENTERING SIDON, FIRED ON OCT 8 BY SMALL PALESTINIAN CRAFT WHICH PUT OUT FROM BETWEEN SIDON AND JIYAH. LEBANESE COASTAL INHABITANTS SAY ISRAELI VESSELS NOW MAKING NIGHTLY RUNS FROM SOUTH AND RETURNING BEFORE DAYBREAK. LEFTIST RADIO CLAIMS INCREASED ISRAELI SUPPLY TO CHRISTIANS VIA JUNIEH IN PAST FEW DAYS.

5. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE. IN BEIRUT, SPORADIC SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS CONTINUES. MUSEUM CROSSPOINT AGAIN CLASED BY SHELLING. CLASHES CONTINUE AT TRADITIONAL HOT POINTS IN SOUTHEAST SUBURBS. ALEY AREA RELATIVELY CALM DESPITE PERIODIC SHELLING. IN TRIPOLI SHELLING CONTINUES FROM NORTH, EAST AND SOUTH OF CITY. RECONNAISSANCE OF BEIRUT/DAMASCUS ROAD MORNING OF OCT 9 NOTED NO INCREASE IN SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY.

6. PFLP-GC EXPLAINS CONFLICT. FIERCE CLASHES OCT 7 BETWEEN FACTIONS OF PFLP-GC EXPLAINED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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ORGANIZATION SPOKESMAN AS DUE "DEVIATIONISM OF AHMED JIBRIL." JIBRIL, LONG CONSIDERED AS PRO-SYRIAN BY MOST FEDAYEEN, NOW HAS TAKEN REFUGE WITH FATAH AND APPEARS TO HAVE LOST LEADERSHIP OF ORGANIZATION TO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE PFLP-GC, COMPOSED OF FOLLOWERS OF ABU AL-ABBAS.

7. DRUZE ISSUE APPEAL. DRUZE OF METN ISSUE PUBLIC APPEAL IN LETTER ADDRESSED TO ARAB HEADS OF STATE, UN SEC GEN AND FRENCH PRESIDENT. LETTER SPEAKS OF "DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGES AND MASSACRE OF CIVILIAN POPULATION BY MARONITE ORGANIZATIONS, THE KATAEB PARTY IN PARTICULAR" DURING METN CAMPAIGN. DRUZE LETTER DESCRIBES ATROCITIES INCLUDING BURNINGS AND BURIALS ALIVE AT SALIMA, ARSOUN AND BZEBDINE, AND

SPEAKS DARKLY OF "THE NATURAL REACTIONS WHICH
COULD RESULT."

8. RIGHTISTS POSTPONE SCHOOL OPENING. RIGHTIST
UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE
AFFIRMING PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT "ALL PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN LIBERATED LEBANON ARE
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE." DECLARATION APPEARS
AIMED AT RETENTIONN OF SECONDARY AND UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS IN MILITIAS, COMBINED WITH UNWILLINGNESS
ALLOW THEIR NON-COMBATANT FELLOWS TO GET AHEAD
SCHOLASTICALLY. BOTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
AND INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE HAVE RECEIVED THREATS
OF SHELLING BY RIGHTISTS IF THEY OPEN. AUB AND IC
HAVE DELAYED OPENING DATES FOR FALL SEMESTER BY
TWO WEEKS UNTIL NOVEMBER 1 AND ARE EXPLORING MEANS
TO DEACTIVATE THREATS, INCLUDING OFFERING SOME CLASSES
IN EASTERN ZONE TO STUDENTS UNABLE REACH CLASSES
IN WESTERN ZONE.
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